



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **JANUARY 10, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Jennifer Lehman, County Counsel
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division
Audra Galang, Staff, Commission Services Division

UPDATE OF MS. JENNIFER LEHMAN, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Ms. Jennifer Lehman shared a copy of County Counsel's analysis and gave a brief update on the ordinance that amends Title 2 – Administration of the Los Angeles County Code relating to the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections by:

- ✚ Formally adding the inspection of Department of Children and Family Services and Probation group homes to the commission's duties as set forth in Section 2.82.080;
- ✚ Deleting the inspection of toy loan facilities from the Commission's responsibilities as set forth in Section 2.92.080.

Ms. Lehman requested Ms. Sandra Barbee or Audra Galang to prepare a Board letter on the amended Ordinance and that she is available to assist. She also said that the Commission's Sunset Review will be completed by the end of the month.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 3, 2007 were approved with correction:

Page 3, Children's Circle – 10, #1 (formerly ~~Baby's~~ Babies With Aids)

ADD: Commissioner Vito Cannella advised the Commission that due to health issues, he may not be able to participate in Sybil Brand Commission's activities as actively and thanked the Commission for their continued support.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano expressed her condolences for the passing of staff member Mrs. Dedie Ward. Ms. Barbee added that the Executive Office was well represented at the service, such as Executive Officer Sachi Hamai and her deputies, former Executive Officer Violet Varona-Lukens, various Commissioners from the Commission on Disabilities, Sybil Brand Commission, Judicial Procedures Commission, Quality and Productivity Commission and others. Also present were staff members from different LA County departments. She also received an e-mail from Assistant Chief Jim Corbett, who is vacationing in Egypt. There were four people who spoke at the service – Mr. Calvin Williams, her former co-worker, Commission on Disabilities' Commissioner Richard Krzyzanowski and staff member Twila Kerr. Ms. Barbee thanked the Commission for their support.

Chair Montano advised the Commission that a memorial fund was created for Dedie's minor daughter, DeMia Ward at the L.A. Federal Credit Union. After discussion and on motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren, a donation of \$200 was approved for DeMia Ward's memorial fund.

Chair Montano reported the article on "*County jail fail to treat inmates*", Daily Breeze, December 25, 2006. Prisoners are not receiving medical attention at the Los Angeles County Central Jail.

Commissioner Hammargren reported an article on the "*New Chief of Police in Washington, DC*".

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$783.50 and that he is accepting Commissioners' monthly dues.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief of Commission Services Division, reported the following:

1. The Commissioners' Revised Annual Inspection Report for 2006 was shared again to the Commissioners, who were absent during the last week's regular meeting.
2. The Commissioners' Average Mileage Amount Report requested by the Auditor-Controller was shared again.
3. The solicitation letters to Nestle and Von's Market were submitted for signature of Chair Montano and letters to Wal*Mart and Neutrogena were mailed.

Vice Chair Stathatos clarified the issue of the \$100 annual membership fee required by World Vision, Inc. and explained that the \$100 fee represents expenses for extensive handling for larger items that are secured for purchases from stores such as Lowes and Home Depot throughout the year. The fee also considers multiple donations within the year. Commissioner Hammargren referred the issue to Commissioner Rita Hall to reconsider as part of the Commissions fund-raising activities. Contact persons are Ms. Melody Thompson, General Manager of World Vision Inc., Donor Services of Los Angeles and Kelley Frank, Donor Services of Monrovia.

REVIEW AND COMMENT ON YEAR-END REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Chair Montano, and unanimously carried, the Commission accepted the 2006 Year-End Report to the Board of Supervisors. It will be converted to a Board acceptable format and the changes discussed will be made.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montano received the following:

1. Aviva Family and Children's Services 23rd Annual Conference on February 15, 2007. The Commission decided not to attend to the conference this year.
2. Chair Montano received the reports and recommendations from the Auditor-Controller's Office. The reports will be reviewed by Chair Montano and she will report any inconsistencies to the Commission.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS

Zenith Group Home - 114, #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on January 8, 2007 and found that no one was home.

Renaissance Unlimited #1 – 92, #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this big two-story old home on January 9, 2007. Commissioner Hammargren reported that they found the following areas of concern: menu not posted; clients have marginal report cards – torn rug; termite damaged; walls decorated with pictures of the movie, "Godfather". There is no pad on the mattress.

Their paperwork is marginal. They found one single binder instead of having individual folders. There is a staffing issue of three full-time people only.

Girls and Boys Town of Southern California– 47, #1

Chair Montano visited this facility on January 4, 2007, and found that everything is excellent.

Canyon Juvenile Justice Center

Commissioners Moore and Hall visited this facility on January 4, 2007 and found the following areas of concern: the north gate of the facility is off-track for over 49 years; in the Sally Port area, the gate automatically can be opened by any card to access it. There is an ongoing vandalism of radios. The door is not fixed yet. The fire extinguisher placed on the wall, is accessible to the children when transporting them. Commissioner Hall reported that deputies want the judges to leg chain the minors in order to put a delay in the attempt to escape.

Compton Courthouse

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on January 9, 2007 and reported the following:

1. Black and white cameras are obsolete – they need color cameras.
2. The approved new shredder/grinder that was ordered was not yet installed. There are eight to ten incidents that had happened with regards to sewage problem. Because of the delay in the installation of the new grinder, the waste matters go back up to the floor that causes flooding, slip and fall to users. CAL-OSHA was called on sanitation problem. A \$500 fine was threatened in event of noncompliance each time was imposed to those employees exposed.
3. The problem on the sensor's bus gate at the Sally Port was corrected.
4. The following items are necessary - video camera, evacuation plan, uniform and dress code, transportation crew and audit reporting.
5. On staffing issues, they are down to four staff members. Only two staff members doing releases and having 40 releases a day, there is a shortage of manpower. There are two shifts in a day – in the morning and in the evening. The staff working during the day stayed over until 9:30 p.m. doing releases.
6. A lockup storage for inmates' belongings is necessary. Used-bags were used to store items of inmates.
7. It has floppy a roof.
8. On health issues, there are rats and mice in the copier machine and staff lunches.

9. There is a need for a permanent partition at the Attorney's room in order to separate minors from the adults.
10. Staff members need training on emergency situations.
11. On the 12th floor of the Probation Court's juvenile lockup, there are no bathroom facilities in the interview room.

Casa Editha Foundation

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility that treats severely developmentally disabled children on January 4, 2007. This facility is not included in the book of DCFS currently list of group home. The facility is **outstanding**.

Hathaway-Sycamore - 35, #2

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on January 8, 2007 and found it outstanding. It is a cottage set up. On November 2005, Sycamore joined Hathaway. It had a thorough DCFS inspection and audit two months ago. There are no outside group homes as of August 2006.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano shared inspection assignments with the Commissioners for the following week.

The Commission discussed the recommendation of Commissioners Moore and Hall about "On the Spot Recognition" for the children, staff members of the group home facilities and the facility to begin in 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting in memory of Mario Da Nelo at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Barbee
Chief, Commission Services Division